

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

General Information:

Federal Agency:	Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office
Funding Opportunity Title:	Desert Terminal Lakes Projects to Provide Water to Pyramid Lake
Announcement Type:	Initial announcement.
Funding Opportunity Number:	
CFDA Number:	15.508
Due Date for Pre-Applications:	June 15, 2005
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant Cooperative Agreement
Cost Sharing:	Not required.

Funding Opportunity Description:

In 2002, Public Law 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) was passed by Congress. Section 2507 of Public Law 107-17 (Desert Terminal Lakes) and subsequent clarifying legislation appropriated \$200 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for the purpose of providing water to the at-risk desert terminal lakes of Pyramid, Summit and Walker in the State of Nevada. The funds may not be used to purchase or lease water rights. A copy of the legislative language is attached for your information.

This funding opportunity is specific to providing water to Pyramid Lake. Proposals involving Summit and Walker Lakes will not be considered under this announcement.

Award Information:

Approximately \$10 million is expected to be awarded through this announcement. As this is the initial announcement for this program, it is unknown what type of projects may be proposed. There are no preconceived ideas on the number of awards or the expected amount of individual awards. Reclamation may work with an applicant to determine if partial funding of a proposal would achieve significant benefit in order to allow broader use of the total available funding. It is anticipated that approved projects would begin implementation in early 2006.

Projects may be funded using grants or cooperative agreements. After discussion with an applicant, it may be determined that it would be more beneficial or efficient for Reclamation to complete a portion of the project (for example, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)). If Reclamation were to complete a substantial portion of the work a cooperative agreement would be the type of assistance provided, otherwise a grant agreement will be awarded.

Eligibility Information:

1. *Eligible Applicants* – Any entity may apply except foreign entities and federal agencies.
2. *Cost Sharing or Matching* – No cost sharing or matching is required; however, applicants should identify other funding sources available for the proposal and describe the level of funding from each source. Proposals that will also be funded by other entities will receive added consideration.
3. *Other* – Public Law 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) specifies that, “funds shall . . . be used . . . **to provide water** to at-risk natural desert terminal lakes” and that the funds cannot be used to purchase or lease water rights. To meet this directive, a proposal should include an explanation of how it will get more water to Pyramid Lake. **This is a requirement of the legislation and is considered a threshold criterion in determining the eligibility of the proposal for funding under this program.**

Application and Submission Information:

1. *Address to Request Application Package* - All materials and/or forms required to apply for this opportunity are included in this announcement.

2. *Content and Form of Application*

This is a two-step process. We will be accepting pre-applications for projects under this announcement. The pre-applications will be reviewed and evaluated to insure the threshold criterion of providing water to Pyramid Lake is met. Those proposals meeting the threshold criterion will be ranked. The applicants whose proposals are chosen for further consideration will then be asked to submit complete application packages, including a detailed project description and budget, and all necessary forms, prior to award.

The pre-applications should consist of a narrative description that clearly describes:

- the company/agency submitting the pre-application (state or local government, non-profit, etc.);
- company/agency contact information including an email address;
- a complete description of the project;
- how the project will provide water to Pyramid Lake;
- objectives to be accomplished, methodology and technical feasibility;
- any potential problems with implementation (National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), etc.);
- a general time frame required to complete the project;
- possible benefits other than water quantity;
- leverage of non-federal dollars;
- approximate total cost of the project; and
- cost per acre-foot of water provided to Pyramid Lake.

If the project involves a specific geographic area, include a map showing the location and extent of the project.

Applicants are encouraged to limit the narrative to 10 pages. Maps, letters of intent, letters of support, and other supplemental information may be submitted in addition to the narrative.

3. *Submission Dates and Times*

Pre-applications should be received by close of business June 15, 2005. The pre-applications will be reviewed and evaluated by July 31, 2005. Applicants whose proposals are chosen will be notified and asked submit the full application package by September 30, 2005. Applicants will be notified by email, where possible, that their pre-application has been received. After review and evaluation all applicants will receive information as to further submission of an application package.

4. *Funding Restrictions* - Public Law 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) specifies that, “funds shall . . . be used . . . **to provide water** to at-risk natural desert terminal lakes” and that the funds cannot be used to purchase or lease water rights. To meet this direction, a proposal should include an explanation of how it will get more water to Pyramid Lake. **This is a requirement of the legislation and is considered a threshold criterion in determining the eligibility of the proposal for funding under this program.**

5. *Other Submission Requirements* - **If at all possible the pre-application should be submitted in Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf files) or Microsoft Word.** If this is not possible, two paper copies of the pre-application should be submitted.

Pre-applications should be submitted as follows:

Hard copies by mail to:

Brenda Davis or Mary Sims
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Attn: MP3800
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Electronic copies by email to:

bdavis@mp.usbr.gov
msims@mp.usbr.gov

Application Review Information:

1. *Criteria* - The evaluation team will evaluate proposals using the following criteria. Criteria are listed in order of importance.

a. **Does the proposal get more water to Pyramid Lake?**

Public Law 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) specifies that, “funds shall . . . be used . . . **to provide water** to at-risk natural desert terminal lakes” and that the funds cannot be used to purchase or lease water rights. To meet this legislated requirement, a proposal should include an explanation of how it will get more water to Pyramid Lake. If your proposal does not meet this threshold requirement, it will not be reviewed further.

b. **Feasibility**

Describe how the proposal would be implemented and discuss the technical feasibility. Describe any potential problems in implementing the proposal, such as institutional hurdles (legislation, agreements, etc.) Discuss potential impacts and their associated costs. Describe how long it will take to complete the project and the project life (long-term/short-term, months/years).

c. **Non-water Benefits**

Describe benefits, other than water quantity, resulting from the proposal. We will give additional weight to proposals, consistent with natural river function, that get water to the lake but also have collateral benefits such as improving habitat or conserving listed fish species, etc.

d. Quantity of water gained

Provide an estimate of the total net additional water you anticipate will reach the lake as a result of implementing the proposal. For example, if tamarisk is removed and replaced with willows, the estimated water savings from removing the tamarisk needs to be offset by the estimated water use of the willows. Include your calculations and assumptions to demonstrate how you computed the estimated quantity. Specify whether this is a one-time event, sporadic increase (average amount), or annual increase. Estimate the cost per acre-foot of additional water estimated to reach Pyramid Lake.

e. Broad support

We will give additional weight to proposals that have support from other parties, such as environmental interests, tribes, local governments, irrigators, state and federal agencies, etc.

f. Total estimated proposal cost and cost per acre-foot of water gained

Provide an estimate of the total project cost and compute the cost per acre-foot of water gained. Although cost is not the only factor we will consider, it is an important one for us to look at when comparing proposals.

g. Funding: Cost and Matching funds

In addition to total project cost, identify other funding sources available for the proposal and describe the level of funding from each source. We may give additional weight to proposals that will also be funded by other entities. Also, discuss whether the proposal can be partially implemented if we can provide partial funding. For example, if you are planning to install 10 gauges, can you install 5 gauges for half the cost and still get benefits?

2. Review and Selection Process

Pre-applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a team of federal and state representatives from the US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Geological Survey, and Nevada Department of Wildlife. The team will provide recommendations, based on evaluation results, to the Area Manager of the Lahontan Basin Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation. Pre-applications will be rated “qualified”, “qualified but not recommended for funding at this time”, and “not qualified”. The Area Manager will make all final decisions.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Evaluation Dates - Pre-applications should be received by close of business June 15, 2005. The pre-applications will be reviewed and evaluated by July 31, 2005. Applicants whose proposals are chosen will be notified and asked submit the full application package by September 30, 2005. Applicants will be notified by email, where possible, that their pre-application has been received. After review and evaluation all applicants will receive information as to further submission of an application package.

Agency Contact:

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2002 Farm Bill Funding for At-Risk Natural Desert Terminal Lakes

Public Law 107-171: Farm Bill Provision on Desert Terminal Lakes

SEC. 2507. DESERT TERMINAL LAKES.

- (a) *IN GENERAL.* Subject to subsection (b), as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer \$200,000,000 of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to the Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources Account, which funds shall
- (1) be used by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, **to provide water to at-risk natural desert terminal lakes**; and
 - (2) remain available until expended.
- (b) *LIMITATION.* The funds described in subsection (a) shall not be used to purchase or lease water rights.”

Public Law 108-7, Omnibus Appropriations Bill became law 2/20/03

H.J.RES.2 [House Joint Resolution 2]
Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003
(Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)

Bureau of Reclamation

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

SEC. 207. RESTORATION OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND ASSOCIATED HABITATS IN WATERSHEDS OF CERTAIN LAKES.

- (a) *IN GENERAL-* In carrying out section 2507 of Public Law 107-171, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall--
- (1) subject to paragraph (3), provide water and assistance under that section **only for the Pyramid, Summit, and Walker Lakes in the State of Nevada**;
 - (2) use \$1,000,000 for the creation of a **fish hatchery at Walker Lake** to benefit the Walker River Paiute Tribe; and
 - (3) use \$2,000,000 to provide grants, to be divided equally, to the State of Nevada, the State of California, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, **to implement the Truckee River Settlement Act, Public Law 101-618.**
- (b) *ADMINISTRATION-* The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, may provide financial assistance to State and local public agencies, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to carry out this section and section 2507 of Public Law 107.